

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for fixing an object to a tree, the device including:

an elongate body, one end of which elongate body is adapted for attachment to a tree, the elongate body being comprised of a plurality of elongate members removably joined together, and a length of the elongate body being adjustable by an addition of another elongate member being joined to a terminal one of the joined elongate members,

~~in use~~ an object being slidably mounted on the elongate body, and

a ~~device for~~ biasing member biasing ~~[[an]]~~ the object slidably mounted on the elongate body towards the end of the body adapted for attachment to the tree,

in use, pressure resulting from growth of the tree being transmitted to the object and pushing ~~[[it]]~~ the object along the elongate body against the bias of the biasing member and away from the tree.

2. (original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the elongate body is adapted for attachment to a tree by being fitted with a fixing member.

3. (original) A device according to Claim 2, wherein the fixing member tapers to a sharp end point.

4. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 2, wherein the fixing member is provided with a screw thread for helping insert ~~[[it]]~~ the fixing member into the tree and keep ~~[[it]]~~ the fixing member in place.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing device applies pressure that is usually slightly lower than that pressure resulting from expansion of a growing tree, ~~e.g. a pressure in the range of 7 — 8 kg/cm².~~

6. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing device is formed of a resilient material.

7. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing device comprises a compression spring.

8. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein one end of the biasing device abuts the object.

9. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, further including a component, ~~such as a washer or a ring,~~ that is slidably mounted on the elongate body between the object and the tree so that the tree at least partially contacts the component, the component at least partially transmitting the pressure to the object.

10-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the elongate members are ~~member is~~ generally cylindrical.

13. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~some or all of~~ the components forming the device are formed of plastics or metal material, ~~such as stainless steel.~~

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A device for fixing an object to a tree, the device including:

an elongate body, one end of which is adapted for attachment to a tree, the elongate body being comprised of a

plurality of elongate members joined together, each elongate member removably engageable with another one of the elongate members so that an overall length of the elongate body is adjustable by an addition of a further one of the elongate members to the joined together elongate members;

an object slidably mounted on the elongate body,
a bearing surface located at a distalmost end of a terminal one of the joined elongate members, and

a ~~device for~~ biasing member biasing the object towards the end of the body adapted for attachment to the tree, the biasing member having one end bearing against the object and another end bearing against the bearing surface,

in use, pressure resulting from growth of the tree being transmitted to the object and pushing ~~[[it]]~~ the object along the elongate body against the bias of the biasing member and away from the tree.

16-17. (canceled)

18. (new) A device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing device applies pressure in the range of 7 - 8 kg/cm².

19. (new) A device according to claim 1, further including a washer or a ring slidably mounted on the elongate

body between the object and the tree so that the tree at least partially contacts the washer or ring so that the washer or ring at least partially transmits the pressure to the object.

20. (new) A device for fixing an object to a tree, comprising:

an elongate body, the elongate body comprised of i) a first terminal end comprised of a screw component located at one end of the elongate body, the screw component have a threaded blind bore, ii) a central portion joined to the screw component and comprised of plural elongate members joined together, each elongate member having a threaded blind bore and a threaded projection, and iii) a second terminal end piece joined to a terminal end of the central portion and comprised of a threaded projection, the central portion having an extendable length by an addition of a further elongate member between the second terminal end piece and the terminal end of the central portion;

a bearing surface located at the terminal end of the central portion;

an object to be fixed to the tree having a central aperture slidably fitted around the central portion; and

a compression member fitted over the central portion with a first end bearing against the object and a second end bearing against the bearing surface, the compression

member providing a bias against the object towards the first terminal end,

in use, pressure resulting from growth of the tree being transmitted to the object and pushing the object along the elongate body against the bias of the biasing member and away from the tree.

21. (new) The device of claim 20, wherein the bearing surface is a washer.

22. (new) The device of claim 20, wherein the bearing surface is an integral part of the second terminal end piece.